HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

Great Meadows in the Balance

happy ending may be in sight for the Great Meadows salt marsh in Stratford, an ending that could put most of the state's most threatened salt marsh in the protection of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

USFWS recently signed four options to purchase the most critical 497 acres of marsh and adjacent uplands at Stratford Great Meadows, creating a spectacular conservation opportunity. This agreement brought to a close 20 months of negotiations between USFWS, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy,

and Stratford Development Company, the owners of the property.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is currently waiting to see if Congress will approve its request for funding; it needs \$4.0 million to execute the first option for the "core" wetland and buffer area of almost 400 acres, and to meet commitments for the second option's critical upland habitat. How much of this request Congress grants will dictate how much of the marsh USFWS can save.

The Nature Conservancy and many other organizations

have been working for years to protect the meadows, one of Connecticut's most important coastal ecological systems. Ownership by USFWS not only means the area will be safe from further development, but means marsh restoration work can take place.

In 1990, Congress authorized expansion of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, but provided no funds for the purchase. At the Fish and Wildlife Service's request, The Nature Conservancy assisted the negotiations, and we are pleased to have contributed to their progress.

What's so important about this marsh?

Many of Connecticut's large salt marshes were ditched to reduce mosquito breeding in past years, an activity that altered the hydrology of the marshes, affecting their suitability as habitat for some species. At more than 300 acres (not counting uplands), Stratford Great Meadows is the largest unditched salt marsh in Connecticut.

Salt marshes are the Earth's most productive ecological system in terms of plant and animal matter produced per acre. Connecticut has already *lost* an estimated 30 to 50 percent of its original tidal

wetlands, so this marsh is an important component of the coastline. Marsh plants absorb, dilute and degrade large amounts of toxic pollutants, and play an important role in improving and maintaining water quality. Great Meadows is the largest salt marsh in western Long Island Sound, the only sizable marsh near heavily polluted Bridgeport Harbor, and one of the few such natural filters available to the area.

Bridgeport Harbor, and one of the few such natural filters available to the area.

Like most tidal wetlands, Stratford Great Meadows is also a vital spawning and nursery area for fish, and it

serves as an important resource for Connecticut's oyster industry. The Great Meadows marsh provides one of the most important habitats for shorebirds and waterfowl in southern New England; more than 270 species of migratory birds have been sighted there.

Stratford Great Meadows lies between Milford Point and Norwalk's Chimon Island, where wading birds such as herons and egrets feed, and is therefore an important link in Long Island Sound's chain of habitat. Great Meadows and its barrier beach, Long Beach, support one of New England's three most productive populations of the federally threatened (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



A GROUP EFFORT FOR GREAT MEADOWS



options to purchase 497 acres of marsh and uplands at Stratford Great Meadows, our

state's most threatened salt marsh took an important step toward preservation. Almost two years of negotiations with the Stratford Development Company, which owns the marsh, have resulted in a conservation plan that preserves the marsh's most critical habitat and allows the company to move forward with more limited development plans.

Although any further development at Stratford Great Meadows would be regulated by local, state and federal wetland agencies, it is important the area receive the management it needs, as well as avoid the threat of commercial or industrial development. Twenty-five years ago, the meadows provided the finest shorebird habitat in Connecticut. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to carefully restore some of the damaged wetlands, and return the area to some of its former abundance and beauty. Moreover, ownership of the area by the Fish and Wildlife Service would guarantee public access for research, education, and recreation. The meadows are an unparalleled resource.

I believe protecting Stratford Great Meadows will also have long-term economic benefits for the area as an attraction for lovers of nature. The Fish and Wildlife Service's long term plans for the area may include a visitor center.

The Connecticut Chapter has been committed to the preservation of our coastal resources throughout its history. In the mid-1980s, after more than a decade of negotiations, the chapter helped the Fish and Wildlife Service obtain Milford Point and islands in the Norwalk archipelago to establish the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, a network of coastal nature preserves that also includes Falkner Island in Guilford. Stratford Great

Meadows will fit perfectly into the McKinney Refuge, and deserves to be part of it

Congress had established the Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge in 1985 and renamed it the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge in 1987, after U.S. Congressman McKinney, who died in May of that year. McKinney led the state's congressional delegation in sponsoring the bill that created the refuge.

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I would like to commend Connecticut's entire congressional delegation for their extraordinary commitment to seeking federal funding for this vital project. Rep. Rosa DeLora led this effort, with help from Rep. Christopher Shays — who also testified before the House of Representatives' Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in favor of funding for the meadows — as well as Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, and Rep. Sam Gejdenson.

Of course, it would have been impossible to reach any agreement on the fate of the marsh without the willing participation of the Stratford Development Company. By sticking with these negotiations for so long, the company displayed its commitment to reaching a reasonable conservation plan for the area.

Another key figure in the story of Stratford Great Meadows is the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, which has been contesting development plans at this site since 1969. Without DEP's recognition of the area as ecologically vital, and without its diligence, the marsh would not be at issue today.

A variety of environmental organizations, including the Connecticut Conservation Association, Protect Your Environment, the Connecticut Ornithological Association, the Long Island Soundkeeper, and both the Connecticut and National Audubon societies have been working for many years to protect Stratford Great Meadows, which has become the most controversial conservation site in the state. The town of Stratford has also been working with the DEP to protect wildlife in

this area, specifically the population of least terns and federally threatened piping plovers on town-owned Long Beach.

This effort has also received remarkable support from Connecticut's voters, many of them Connecticut Chapter members, who feel passionately about seizing this opportunity, and wrote an unprecedented number of letters to their representatives, urging them to support the acquisition.

The effort to protect Stratford Great Meadows is an excellent example of The Nature Conservancy doing what it does best: working cooperatively with other organizations, including the business community, to find a solution that will meet everyone's needs. We're proud to have helped facilitate negotiations and structure the deal that will protect this ecological jewel. Our priority was to make sure the most important resources in the area were protected, and our ecological expertise complements that of the Fish and Wildlife Service's experts.

One of the most striking features of Stratford Great Meadows is the intense development that surrounds it. The smoke-stacks and Bridgeport skyline should not fill us with despair, however, but with a sense of urgency: this place is a priceless jewel, threatened with destruction. Not all ecologically significant areas are beautiful and pristine; some inspire us through the contrast they provide to their surroundings, places where, despite some bloodying, nature's head remains unbowed.

LES COREY

Vice President and

Executive Director

On the cover: The Great Meadows Salt Marsh in Stratford.

Chapter Buys Addition to Burnham Brook

he Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter in April closed on a 215-acre tract of land that will expand the Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam to a total of 679 acres.

This is the first announcement of land protected by the Connecticut Chapter as a part of "Tidelands of the Connecticut River," a comprehensive program to protect the marsh ecological system of the lower Connecticut. This program is part of The Nature Conservancy's national "Last Great Places" initiative. The Burnham Brook addition protects the watershed of an important tributary of the Connecticut River.

The addition will be called the Chauncey Hand tract, in memory of the man who acquired it 60 years ago, and whose family agreed to sell the land to The Nature Conservancy.

The transaction also included a donation by the Hand family of 10 acres to the Conservancy. The donated land is adjacent to the Chapter's Lord Cove Preserve in Lyme.

With the help of significant donations from supporters in East Haddam and surrounding towns, the Chapter was able to raise \$394,000 in cash and pledges toward the purchase and closing costs. The chapter is still

working to raise \$156,000 to repay a partial loan for the purchase, and for a permanent preserve management endowment.

"We still urgently need to raise the remaining funds to ensure the permanent protection of this land," said Connecticut Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr.

More than a third of the money raised came from donors from East Haddam and surrounding towns. Donations also came from Arizona, California, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. Leading this effort were Dr. Richard H. and Esther Goodwin of East Haddam, who kicked off the fund raising effort with a \$40,000 challenge grant, and continue to be very active in raising funds.

"This widespread support gives an indication of the high regard in which Dick and Esther Goodwin are held," Corey said.

The chapter purchased the property from the heirs of Patricia Smith - the family of Chauncey Hand – for \$500,000, significantly less than its fair market value.

"That generosity on the part of the Hand family tells us they understand the significance of the land they have protected, and that they are interested in protecting it for the generations to come," Corey said. 🐉

- JOHN MATTHIESSEN

The Nature Conservancy At Work

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Transactions:	14,617	623
Total Acres Protected:	6,443,000	19,196
Total Acres Registered:	487,000	5,103
Total Acres Saved	6,930,000	24,299
Members	697,237	16,056
Corporate Associates	974	20

Thank You for Granting Our Wish

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter has had great success soliciting much-needed items through our occasional "Wish List" in From the Land. We recently received a gas-powered hedge clipper from Allan Prior of Fairfield and a 16-inch chain saw from an anonymous donor in response to the request we made in our spring issue. Thanks to all our generous members who have helped us!

Piping plover (Charadrius melodus), one of the bird species found at Stratford Great Meadows.

in 1969, and there are further plans to develop the property.

The Conservancy has already received generous funding commitments from the Geoffrey C. Hughes Foundation and Iroquois Gas Company's Land Preservation and Enhancement Program to assist with the preservation of the site. If sufficient federal funding is not available, the Conservancy will seek alternative funding sources to meet this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. 🗩

—IOHN MATTHIESSEN

Great Meadows in the Balance

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE I)

piping plover, and is a feeding area for the federally endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon.

In the 1920s, Roger Tory Peterson, Allan Cruickshank and other prominent ornithologists regularly took the train from New York City to Stratford and hiked out to the marsh, then the premier bird habitat in the entire greater metropolitan New York region.

Although the Stratford Great Meadows salt marsh was never ditched, some of it has been developed, reducing its size and productivity. Many acres were filled before passage of the state's Tidal Wetlands Act

60-acre Killingworth Parcel Comes to the Connecticut Chapter



Farewell to Claudia!

The Connecticut Chapter wishes the very best to Claudia Polsky as she heads west to attend the University of California Law School at Berkeley. Claudia plans to focus on international environmental law.

In the past three years Claudia has contributed greatly not only to the land protection efforts of the Connecticut Chapter, especially the Natural Heritage Registry Program, but also to the Conservancy's International Program. She will be sorely missed.

Many members know Claudia from the numerous slide shows she has presented on the work of the Connecticut Chapter and of the Conservancy's International Program. Claudia's energy, enthusiasm, creativity and competence put her in contact with many of the Conservancy's friends, donors, and conservation partners.

Claudia has played a leading role in planning a comprehensive program to preserve the significant and unique ecological features of the lower Connecticut River, formally called Tidelands of the Connecticut River. She has also been instrumental in promoting the chapter's involvement in the Conservancy's International Program.

We all wish Claudia the very best!

— CAROLIE EVANS

he Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter is pleased to
announce it has received a gift of
a 60-acre parcel of land known
locally as the Pheasant Lot. The parcel is in
Killingworth near the Madison and Durham
town lines and the Hammonassett River.
Mrs. Susan S. Pearson of Branford devised
the land to the chapter before she died in
1987, and the Conservancy acquired title to
the property in April 1993 after the probate
court approved the transfer.

Pearson family members fondly remember picnics on this tract years ago. The Conservancy hopes that Susan Pearson's generosity and foresight in protecting this tract will encourage the protection of other critical lands along the Hammonassett River north of the South Central Regional Water Authority holdings in Madison and Killingworth.

The low-lying tract represents several diverse habitats varying from old field to mature forest, streamside wetlands to bedrock outcrops and seepage swamps to stagnant basins. The only structures on the property are an old cellar hole and a stone barn foundation just west of the abandoned Jay Dowd Road in Killingworth.

If you are interested in visiting the property, take Tibbal's Bridge Road off Route 79 in Madison. Park at the end of the road, walk across the bridge and turn south (right) on the old woods road. The northeast corner of the Pearson property starts about 1,000 feet down the road. If your eyes are sharp, you will see the cement monument that marks the corner. Approximately 800 feet more brings you to the site of the old homestead and barn.

—CAROLIE EVANS



Pearson Property, Killingworth

Natural History Walks Continued

he Chapter's natural history walks were so popular we have decided to continue our series. All trips are from 10 a.m. to noon. Please be sure to bring sunscreen, water, insect repellent and wear appropriate attire – walks will take place rain or shine. You may also want field guides, a hand lens, and binoculars. Please be aware that there are no restroom facilities at any of these sites.

There will be a limit of 20 participants on each walk, so be sure to sign up well in advance; reservations are required. Please call Science and Stewardship Assistant Jean Cox at the Connecticut Field Office, 344-0716.

Confirmation and directions will be mailed before each walk.

CATHEDRAL PINES, Cornwall Saturday, August 21 See the wonders of Cathedral Pines, an old growth forest blown down by a tornado in 1989.

PLEASANT VALLEY, Lyme Saturday, September 18 Enjoy a leisurely hike through the place that inspired Connecticut's own school of impressionist painters.

POQUETANUCK COVE, Ledyard Saturday, October 9 Walk through this 234-acre preserve bordering

A Growing Threat: Japanese Barberry

t's late April, and as you enter Rock Springs preserve there is a bright green haze throughout the forest floor. The season's first real green, what a delight! Or is it?

At a growing number of Conservancy preserves throughout the state – Burnham Brook, Lord Cove, and the Buell preserve among them – Japanese barberry is spreading rapidly.

Whenever a non-native species gets a foothold and drives out a native plant or animal species, the woods are a poorer place for it. Whereas native plant species have coevolved to create a tapestry of complex, interrelated and timed harvests for the variety of wildlife species that depend on them, stands of a single exotic species may impoverish a whole dependent chain of native organisms.

Descriptions of the barberry include "a hardy, thorny hedge...[growing] in difficult, shaded and mean places." While that isn't entirely the case – it also invades otherwise healthy forest systems – it is nonetheless tremendously prolific in some areas, creating a solid and formidable understory.

There are several species of barberry, and the plants hybridize freely.

Of primary concern is Japanese barberry,

Berberis thunbergii, a low, compact shrub with arching branches and a single spine below each rosette of wedge-shaped, untoothed leaves. Yellow flowers produce small oblong red berries that are borne singly from the stem.

Berberis vulgaris, the common barberry, is actually less common and not considered as great a threat to natural areas. This native of Europe has bristle-toothed leaves, also occurring in whorles that are surrounded by a three-pronged thorn and a long, drooping cluster of yellow flowers that produce similar red berries. All barberries have a distinctive yellow inner bark and wood.

The Connecticut Chapter's Science and Stewardship team held its first barberry work party in April at the Burnham Brook preserve in East Haddam. Hearty volunteers joined chapter staff and long-time barberry nemesis Dr. Richard Goodwin to root out plants on the preserve. There is still a long way to go, but the results of one day's work were satisfying.

Once you become familiar with what to look for, you can join the effort to control the potentially problematic spread of the Japanese barberry. Watch out for thorns, and make sure you dig up the roots!

- JUDY PRESTON



Preserve Steward David Gumbart hefts a clump of barberry he uprooted at the Bumham Brook Preserve in East Haddam.





Top: Volunteers Jennifer Famiglietti and Matt Chaterdon of Rocky Hill High School help cut barberry at Burnham Brook.

Bottom: Marlene Kopcha, the Connecticut Chapter's new stewardship assistant, uproots a barberry bush.

Getting the Job Done

hroughout the year, and especially in the spring and summer, the Connecticut Chapter organizes volunteer work parties. Some of these activities occur annually, while others occur only when the need arises.

Examples of long-term projects include erecting fencing at Griswold Point in Old Lyme for nesting birds, cutting invasive vegetation at Chapman Pond in East Haddam and Bauer Woods in Lime Rock, and establishing nesting sites for roseate terms at Falkner Island off the coast of Guilford. Another example this spring was a work party at Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam to pull barberry (see article above).

Our need for your assistance is plain; these projects require many hours to complete, and

the more hands, the faster the project goes. The Conservancy tries to stretch its resources to be as cost-effective as we can, and that includes seeking volunteer help.

From a volunteer's perspective, there must be more reward than a few cookies! Many volunteers return year after year to help.

Mark Curabeta, a student at the University of Connecticut, mentioned that he can donate time but not money. Angelo Frank of New Haven commented that work parties provide an opportunity to see areas that aren't always accessible. Perhaps most of all, it gives our members a sense of camaraderie and a hands-on opportunity to help save our state's biological diversity.

Many of the work parties occur in the spring and summer. If you would like to be added to our volunteer data base to participate in work parties and other volunteer opportunities, please drop us a note and request a volunteer packet.

— BETH LAPIN

Chapter Funds Five Research Projects



Interns Help Conservancy, Earn Knowledge

The Connecticut Chapter recently resumed its Student Intern Program, which allows college and graduate students to gain experience in conservation biology while serving the conservation community. Students, working mainly with staff from the chapter's Science and Stewardship Team, work on projects ranging from ecological site planning of biologically critical areas to assisting with preserve management.

The interns are volunteering from schools throughout Connecticut, including the University of New Haven, Yale University and Central Connecticut State University. Work completed for The Nature Conservancy is used for course credit for senior undergraduates or Masters degree candidates, or as research projects toward a Master's degree.

Students who recently completed projects include Marlene Kopcha of Central Connecticut State University, who worked on preserve maintenance; Susan Rodrigue of the University of New Haven, who worked on ecological site planning at Dead Man's Swamp in Cromwell; Kevin Ross of Yale University, who worked on developing a mathematical methodology for site prioritization; Dexter Mead of the Yale School of Forestry, who developed a land conservation strategy for the Hamburg Cove area in Lyme; and M. Elizabeth Rossomando of the Yale School of Forestry, who worked on a non-point source pollution assessment for the lower Connecticut River watershed. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

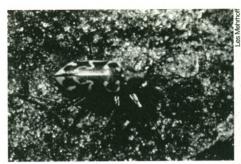
he Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter research
grants program continues to grow.
We received a splendid response to
this year's program, with a total of nine submissions for small grants. Out of that pool, reviewers narrowed the field to five accepted proposals. These studies represent a variety of topics,
all of which will help the Conservancy manage
its preserve lands throughout the state.

Investigator Frank Dirrigl will reconfirm the occurrence of the state-endangered least shrew (*Cryptotis parva*), revising and mapping the boundaries of this secretive animal's location. In addition, Dirrigl will consolidate his documentation of the life history and habitat needs of the shrew in a stewardship abstract.

Continuing his work with the worm-eating warbler (Helmitheros vermivorus), University of Connecticut PhD student George Gale will explore this migratory bird's selection of habitats. He will attempt to determine, among other things, why the warbler's breeding area is limited to large forests; is it because the steep hillsides and dense shrub cover it needs are unavailable in smaller patches? Gale will compare habitat features in the extensive forests at the Conservancy's Devil's Den Preserve in Weston with a sample of small forest patches.

Gale's work will help clarify the relationship between the need for specific habitat and the warbler's sensitivity to a specific area. He believes that if worm-eatings can successfully reproduce in small patches of high-quality habitat, there are direct implications for potential management of this species and others that are sensitive to the amount of area available to them.

A closer look at the Susquetonscut Brook floodplain near Lebanon, Conn., will give grant recipient and UConn Masters candidate



Andrew Harris a better understanding of the flow processes of small streams. By studying the stratigraphy – arrangement of strata – of the floodplain, Harris will attempt to draw conclusions about how the Susquetonscut basin responded to known historic changes in the past 300 years. "We need to study how these streams react to culturally manipulated or naturally changing environments, in order to maximize conservation efforts," writes Harris.

Connecticut's globally rare puritan tiger beetle (Cicindela puritana Horn) will get some help from grant recipient Philip Nothnagle, who will undertake a strategy for controlling invading vegetation at a site that supports a beetle population. Beetle densities in the shrub area of the habitat are very low. In order to assess the effect of vegetation control, Nothnagle will study the beetles, their movement patterns and home ranges.

Populations of the diamondback terrapin (Malaclemys terrapin) have been decimated after continuous and unregulated harvesting along the east coast. Constance Wood will be studying the few remaining isolated populations along the Connecticut shoreline to create a clearer picture of their population dynamics, information that will provide vital data to better protect and manage this declining turtle species.

- JUDY PRESTON

Puritan tiger beetle (Cicindela puritana), Connecticut's rarest species, is the subject of a research project funded by the Connecticut Chapter.

Data Base, DOT Cooperate to Protect Rare Plant

hen construction crews replace three bridges at South Cove in Old Saybrook this fall, they will take special measures to protect a state endangered plant species, under permit conditions developed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) and the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base.

The endangered plant and two other species of special concern were discovered by The Nature Conservancy in 1990 during its Connecticut River Inventory Program. Data Base staff collects this type of information, whether it is generated by Nature Conservancy staff, DEP scientists, various universities or other organizations, and maintains it on its computer system, which is the only centralized inventory of the status and locations of Connecticut's rarest plant and animal species.

The state Endangered Species Act, passed in 1989, and an official list of state threatened and endangered species released last year now require that all state agencies utilize the Data Base to determine if construction activities will have an adverse effect on any species listed as threatened or endangered.

For the past year, the DOT has been funding the Information Manager position at the Data Base. This critical position, which

responds to hundreds of requests for information annually, had never received consistent funding through the normal budget process.

While the vast majority of state projects do not disturb rare species, the Old Saybrook project is an example of one that would have. "Through the process of cooperative negotiation, we were able to reach a solution which allowed for both needed bridge replacement and mitigation for a very vulnerable species," said Nancy Murray, coordinator of the Data Base.

The measures to be taken by DOT's contractors include the transfer of the existing overlying organic material to the area where the plant population will be restored after construction, and the collection and banking of the endangered plant's seeds in case more active recolonization of the restoration area is required. DEP officials believe that, with proper restoration of the area, recolonization of the plant will occur without further human intervention.

"The extra efforts put in on this project by the DOT, their consultant Close, Jensen and Miller, and the Natural Diversity Data Base are well work it," said Dr. Juliana Barrett, the Connecticut Chapter's Stewardship Ecologist. "These plants have been declining primarily due to loss of habitat. This is one area where this loss was prevented."

— David Sutherland

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Other interns include David
Casagrande of Central Connecticut State
University, who is working on ecological
site planning for Post and Pratt Coves in
Deep River; Kent McFarland of Antioch
College, who is working on ecological site
planning for Great Island Marshes in Old
Lyme; and Laurie Gianotti of the University of New Haven, who is working on a
watershed model for Salmon Cove in East
Haddam.

This program not only provides valuable information for The Nature Conservancy, but also gives students an opportunity to work with conservation professionals throughout the state, including the state Department of Environmental Protection, Regional Planning Agencies, and town officials.

For more information on the Connecticut Chapter's Student Intern Program, please contact either Judy Preston or Juliana Barrett at (203)344-0716.

— Juliana Barrett

Finding Partners for Land Protection and Stewardship

In 1969, the group "Save The Wetlands" bought a 2.5-acre piece of property along the Menunketesuck River in Westbrook and donated it to The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter. Comprising mostly tidal marsh, it also includes a small strip of wooded upland. The Connecticut Chapter has held this land, which provides essential fish and wildlife habitat as well as flood control, ever since. Now, the Conservancy is considering a transfer of the land to the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, keeping the 2.5 acres protected and in capable management in perpetuity.

The chapter's Science & Stewardship Committee visited the preserve in April with representatives of the USFWS, and all agreed the McKinney Refuge would be an appropriate owner and steward of the land. Conservancy stewardship staff is working on the details of the agreement.

Because The Nature Conservancy owns 70 preserves across the state, and has a legal interest in more than 150 other areas, our role in actively managing every site can be overwhelming. In certain instances, when a capable local organization can be found (usually a local land trust), the Conservancy will donate its protected land to it.

These efforts are part of a Science & Stewardship program to find appropriate conservation partners to facilitate active management at a larger number of sites than would otherwise be possible. By retaining legal reversionary interests in these lands, the Conservancy remains a partner in each preserve that is transferred.

— DAVID GUMBART

New Employee

Jean Cox is our new science and stewardship assistant. She joined us in late May after graduating from the University of Connecticut where she majored in English. Though relatively new to the work force, she has worked at Day, Berry & Howard, a law firm in Hartford, and more recently at the housing department at UConn. Her interests include reading, music, and basketball.



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Former Agriculture Commissioner Takes Over as Eastern Regional Director



Artist Barry Van Dusen of Princeton, Mass., (left) and Dr. Dorothy Arvidson of Arlington, Mass. discuss Van Dusen's work at the Lyme Invitational "Wildlife In Art" reception on Saturday, June 5 at the Lyme Art Association Gallery in Old Lyme. Connecticut Chapter Acoms received special invitations to this reception. If you would like to become a Connecticut Chapter Acom, please fill out and return the form below.

Please Join Us!

- Yes, I'd like to become The Nature Conservancy's newest member in Connecticut.
 - __ \$100 (Acom)*
 - __ \$50
 - \$25
- __ I'm already a member, but would like to join the ranks of Connecticut Acoms.*

Double your gift – send in your corporate matching gift form!

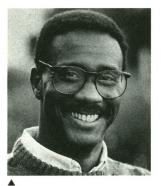
* Acoms are Conservancy members who contribute at least \$100 annually to Chapter operations. Connecticut Acoms are exempt from national membership dues notices, are invited on Acom trips, and receive early notices for special events.

Please include name and address and make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy and mail to 55 High Street, Middletown, Conn. 06457-3788. Thank you.

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The Connecticut Chapter welcomes Gregory C. Watson as the new director of The Nature Conservancy Eastern Regional Office. Watson comes to the Conservancy from his post as commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, to which he was appointed by Former Governor Michael Dukakis in 1990, and reappointed by Governor William Weld in 1991. Before that, Watson was director of New Alchemy Institute in East Falmouth, Mass., a non-profit organization conducting research and demonstrations of sustainable agriculture as well as energy and water conservation methods. He graduated from Tufts University in Medford, Mass. with a degree in civil engineering.

Former Eastern Regional Director Bruce Runnels, who came to the region in 1990 by way of the New Jersey Field Office, has taken over as director of the Conservancy's Midwest Regional Office in Minneapolis, Minn. The Connecticut Chapter wishes Bruce the best with his return to his native midwest.



Gregory C. Watson, the new director of The Nature Conservancy Eastern Regional Office.

E MBER'S NICH

n a tight job market, it's easy for The Nature Conservancy to get spoiled. Many individuals ask us how they can become Chapter volunteers, hoping to get the proverbial "foot in the door" in the environmental field. They bring relevant skills, enthusiasm and a willingness to help, and we are always grateful for their assistance.

One particular volunteer humbly approached us in 1991, offered to do unglamorous office work, and never said a word about wanting to get paid. When, over time, we became aware of her MBA, her years of graphic design, direct marketing, publications experience, and . . . well . . . her omnicompetence, it was hard to know just how to handle it. First, we promoted her, and gave her substantively challenging work. Then, we gave her the projects the staff didn't know how to do.

In her two years with the Connecticut Chapter, volunteer extraordinaire Leslie Starr has done research on land ownership at ecologically significant sites, redesigned the chapter's Land Trust Service Bureau newsletter and brochure, improved the Natural Heritage Registry newsletter, created displays for public events and designed dozens of graphic materials. Currently, Leslie is helping the Science

and Stewardship staff improve the visitor experience at the chapter's most popular preserves.

When Leslie is not at the chapter

office, she's busy protecting her local environment. Formerly an officer of the Haddam Land Trust, Leslie is now on Haddam's conservation and inland wetlands commission, and is campaigning for scenic road designation for Route 154 in Haddam.

At the Connecticut Chapter we've benefitted from Leslie's exceptional output — she has donated thousands of hours, generally volunteering two to three days per week — and we have all learned from her. To have a volunteer with her energy and abilities is the chapter's good fortune; as we say to Leslie, "It's a good thing we don't pay you, because we couldn't afford you!" THANK YOU, Leslie, for all your wonderful work.

— Claudia Polsky

Darien Audubon Society Donates \$1,200 to Panamanian Namesake



n April 13, the Darien Audubon Society donated \$1,200, its largest donation ever, to save threatened land in another Darien: Panama's Darien National Park, one of the hemisphere's richest natural areas. Present at the donation were, from left, Darien Audubon Society Vice President Anne Williams, Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter Trustee Randolph K. Byers of Wilton, past Darien Audubon President John C. Faulkner, Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter Trustee Stewart Greenfield, and Connecticut Chapter Executive Director Leslie N. Corev Ir. Faulkner and Greenfield locate the Darien on a map of Panama.

Steve Burns (left), Nature
Conservancy Cause Related
Marketing Associate, with a
customer in a Stop & Shop
supermarket who is using a canvas
shopping bag. In 1992, more than
half a million shoppers brought their
own shopping bags to Stop & Shop
Supermarkets, saving the company
\$27,000. Stop & Shop
Supermarket Company of Quincy,
Mass., donated that amount to
The Nature Conservancy.





The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter sponsored a
trip to Jamaica in March, which
included an opportunity to see
some of that Caribbean island's
spectacular wildlife. At left, a
red-billed streamertail. This is an
abundant species in Jamaica,
encountered from sea level to the
highest mountains, wherever there
are flowers. The tail feathers of
this tiny bird grows to six inches on
the male. It feeds on nectar and
small insects, fruit flies and
swarming ants.

Saturday, August 7, 10 a.m. to noon Insect Identification and Biology at Devil's Den.

Dr. Steve Patton will teach the basics of insect identification and talk about the biology of these abundant creatures.

Saturday, August 15, 10 a.m. to noon Family Nature Walk at Devil's Den. Get out for a walk during the dog days of August. Leader: Annette Lusardi

Sunday, August 22, 10 a.m. to noon Sunny Valley Farm Preserve Tour. Guided by Preserve Manager Wayne Woodard. There is limited space, so please call to reserve a spot.

Sunday, September 19, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bird Migration at Sunny Valley Farm. Scour Sunny Valley's 400-acre home farm for hawks, sparrows, warblers, and other early fall migrants with Preserve Director Chris Wood.

Saturday, October 9 Sunny Valley Preserve Pumpkin Harvest Day

Pick your own pumpkin and other activities.

Saturday, November 13 Land Trust Service Bureau Convocation University of Hartford, West Haven Call Lesley Olsen at 344-9867 for more details.

Please register for all activities at the Sunny Valley Preserve by calling (203) 354-3444.

Horticultural Society Symposium August 12 to 14

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to sponsor the American Horticultural Society's national symposium, titled "Children, Plants, and Gardens: Educational Opportunities," on August 12 to 14 in Washington, D.C.

This international gathering of leading edge innovators is dedicated to bringing children, plants, and gardens together in dynamic new ways.

Some of the subjects to be covered in the symposium will be:

- Using the garden as a teaching laboratory.
- Identifying school and community playgrounds with creative gardens and landscaping designed for children.
- Building cooperative children's gardening programs between schools, businesses, nonprofits and community groups.

For full registration information, call, write or fax to the American Horticultural Society, Children's Symposium, 7931 East Blvd., Alexandria, Va. 22308. Tel: (800)777-7931. Fax: (703)768-5700.

The Connecticut Chapter's 33rd

Join Us for a Fun and Informative Cruise on Long Island Sound

waterfront location, a guest speaker from the Caribbean, and a two-hour cruise with lunch provided are just a few of the features of interest of The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter's 33rd annual meeting. Please join us at Skipper's Restaurant in East Norwalk, and help us celebrate another successful year in conservation in Connecticut!

Memorial Gifts

In the past year, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter has received many generous memorial contributions on behalf of the following people. The trustees and staff of the Connecticut Chapter wish to thank the families and loved ones of these individuals for including The Conservancy at this time in their lives. A memorial gift that furthers land preservation is one that can be cherished and remembered for many generations.

Douglas Alspaugh Eunice Anttalainen Katherine L. Bakeless Charles R. Basan Josephine Bates Sybil P. Bellos Larry Biller Wilbur Brothwell Deborah Churchill Chace Lawrence M. Duryee Carey Flanagan Elise Scholssner Friend Laura Glatz Mrs. Hanson Mrs. Katherine Hoar Robert Johnson Saimi Johnson Herman Lehmann Irene Meehan Dr. Alice Elizabeth Moore John W. Porter Lynette Scribner Donald D. Sibley Elvira E. Spiller Ralph C. Stevens Marie Venberg William Marshall Youmans

Saturday, October 16, 1993 East Norwalk, Connecticut

8:45 a.m. Registration and Refreshments

9:30 a.m. Connecticut Chapter Annual Business Meeting

> Anthony P. Grassi, Chairman

The Year in Review Leslie N. Corey Jr., Director

10:30 a.m. Awards Ceremony

10:45 a.m. Guest Speaker Dr. David Smith

11:30 a.m. Board Mr. Lucky

Noon Mr. Lucky Departs

2:30 p.m. Disembark from Mr. Lucky

Dr. David Smith, Jamaican Entomologist to Address Meeting

Dr. David Smith, one of Jamaica's foremost entomologists and executive director of the Jamaican Conservation and Development Trust, will discuss Jamaica's conservation challenges. The JCDT is Jamaica's leading private non-profit environmental organization, and is dedicated to the protection of Jamaica's natural resources. Jamaica's Blue Mountains/John Crow Mountains preserve is one of two international sites selected for support by the Connecticut Chapter.



Long Island Sound Cruise

After the Annual Meeting and awards, join the Connecticut Chapter staff and trustees for a two-hour cruise on Long Island Sound aboard the ship *Mr. Lucky*, passing Sheffield and Chimon Islands – both part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge – and other points of interest. Space is limited, so please fill out and return the coupon on page 11 to reserve your space.



Annual Meeting

Nominations to the Chapter Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers and trustees for election to the board by the general membership:

J. Wyatt Uhlein, Litchfield

President of AgTek International Inc., a Litchfield-based venture capital concern he founded in the early 1970s. Before that, J. Wyatt Uhlein was a vice president at International Basic Economics Corporation in New York City, an investment firm. Uhlein attended Syracuse Law School and Williams College. He is a director of the Housatonic Valley Association and is active in the Thousand Island Land Trust based in Clayton, N.Y. He and his family like to bird watch, canoe, fish and ski.

Nominated for re-election to three-year terms:

Randolph K. Byers Wilton Dr. Carmen Cid, Willimantic Kevin Coady, Branford Raymond Lamontagne, Wilton Patricia V. Wegner, Simsbury

Nominated as officers for one-year terms for election by board of trustees:

Anthony P. Grassi, Wilton Chairman

Austin D. Barney II, West Simsbury Vice Chairman for Development

Daniel P. Brown Jr., West Granby Vice Chairman for Land Acquisition

Evan S. Griswold, Old Lyme Vice Chairman for Stewardship

A. Eugene Billings, Norfolk

	Treasurer	
	Peter B. Cooper, Woodbri Secretary	dge
Annual Meeting Reservat	tion Form – Please respond by Friday, Octol vould like it to appear on your name tag.	
YOUR ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE ZIP CODE	
DAY PHONE	EVENING PHONE	
Number attending at \$25 Of these, please reserve me	5 each (Includes Long Island Sound cruise and box lun_vegetarian lunches.	ch)
Total Enclosed	\$	
I will attend the annual me	eeting, not the Sound cruise and lunch. No money enclo	sed
	nnual Meeting, The Nature Conservancy, Connec	ticut
Please fill out and return to: A Chapter, 55 High Street, Midd		
Chapter, 55 High Street, Midd		

Directions to Skipper's Restaurant:

From Interstate 95 heading South:
Take Exit 16 (East Norwalk), make a left at the light onto East Avenue. Go about one half mile, then bear left around cemetery, then bear right onto Gregory Boulevard. Proceed about one half mile, turn left at monument, then bear right immediately. Continue about one half mile and turn right into Norwalk Cove Marina. Go straight ahead and you will see Skipper's on your left. There is ample parking.

From I-95 heading North: Take Exit 16 (East Norwalk), make a right off the ramp and proceed as above.

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The Nature Conservancy

Connecticut Chapter 55 High Street Middletown, CT 06457-3788 (203) 344-0716 FAX (203) 344-1334

National Office: 1815 North Lynn Street, Arlington, VA 22209

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Land Trust Service Bureau Carolyn K. Evans, Director Lesley Olsen, Associate Director

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Devil's Den Preserve (203) 226-4991 Dr. Stephen Patton, Director Dr. Lise Hanners, Assistant Director Frederick Moore, Preserve Manager Priscilla Squiers, Administrative Assistant Lillian Willis, Staff Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator

Sunny Valley Preserve (203) 354-3444 Christopher S. Wood, Director Wayne K. Woodard, Preserve Manager Margaret L. McCauley, Administrative Assistant

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From The Land

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Do Something Wild on Your Tax Return

Tilling out your state income tax form may be more satisfying next year, thanks to legislation passed by the 1993 General Assembly. The bill, introduced by The Nature Conservancy and Democratic Representative Jesse Stratton of Canton, establishes an income tax refund checkoff system to benefit endangered species, nongame wildlife and Natural Area Preserves programs at the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Those tax filers receiving refunds will be able to indicate on state income tax forms if they wish to donate part or all of their refund to the DEP programs or to two other checkoff funds. Thirty-eight other states have similar checkoff programs.

The Chapter and the DEP have long been frustrated by the lack of funds to staff programs geared toward protecting our most vulnerable plant and animal species. The Natural Area Preserves program, for example, which has been in Connecticut law since 1969, is intended to designate selected DEP lands that would be managed primarily to facilitate research and education on rare species or exemplary natural communities. However, lack of staff has prevented management plans from being approved or implemented at any sites.

Last summer Connecticut Chapter staff began researching checkoff programs in other states and meeting with legislators to obtain their feedback and advice. As the legislature convened in January, members of The Nature Conservancy, the Connecticut Ornithological Association, the Sierra Club, the Connecticut Audubon Council and other groups contacted lawmakers to urge approval of the bill. After the bill was passed by three legislative committees, it was merged with proposals for checkoffs to fund AIDS research, education, and for uninsured organ transplants.

Statistics from other states, adjusted for population, suggest that Connecticut can expect to raise approximately \$200,000 annually from the Endangered Species Checkoff. 🗩

- DAVID SUTHERLAND



From The Land * The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter 55 High Street Middletown, CT 06457-3788

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